

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, and 6-12 are now amended. Claims 13-16 are now added. The new claims and claim amendments are fully supported by the application as filed and do not present new subject matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

Claims 1-3 and 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al. (U.S. Pat. Application No. 2004/0095528). Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakamura et al. reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Nakamura et al. reference corresponds to PCT No. PCT/JP03/00482. This PCT application was filed on January 21, 2003, in the Japanese language. Because the PCT was filed in Japanese, the Section 102(e) date for the Nakamura et al. reference is the date of its U.S. publication, May 20, 2004.

Applicants claim priority to JPSN2002-298987, filed on October 11, 2002, and JPSN2003-181318, filed June 25, 2003. Applicants now attach certified English translations of these Japanese priority documents in order to perfect priority to these documents. Therefore, Applicants are now entitled to priority dating back to October 11, 2002 and June 25, 2003.

Applicants' priority dates of October 11, 2002 and June 25, 2003 predate the Section 102(e) date of the Nakamura et al. reference, which is May 20, 2004.

Therefore, the Nakamura et al. reference is not prior art to Applicants' invention and the Section 102 and 103 rejections are invalid. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 and 103 rejections.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS AND NEW CLAIMS

Claims 1, 4, and 6-12 are now amended. The claim amendments are fully supported by the Application as filed and do not include new subject matter. The amendments are made to simply clarify Applicants' invention and the scope of protection that the invention deserves in light of the prior art. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the amended claims.

New Claims 13-16 are now added. The new claims are fully supported by the application as filed and do not include new subject matter. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the new claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

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By: _____

G. Gregory Schivley, Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade, Reg. No. 40,844

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GGS/BGS/les